

# **DC Bicycle Advisory Council**

**September 1, 2004**

## **MINUTES**

### Members in Attendance:

Amy Nevel  
Chris Craig  
Conrad Smith  
James Koski  
Jim Sebastian  
Rudi Schreiber, Chair  
Lyn Stoesen  
Juile Eisenhardt  
Tomeka Gibbs

### **New Member**

Rudi Schreiber opened the meeting by introducing the newest member of the BAC. Tomeka Gibbs was appointed by Councilmember Sandy Allen to fill the Ward 8 seat.

### **Bike Facility Maintenance**

One of the most persistent problems facing DC bicyclists is lack of maintenance and sweeping on certain trails, particularly the sidewalks on our bridges. DDOT receives weekly complaints about the Sousa, Douglas, Roosevelt, and 14<sup>th</sup> Street Bridges, as well as associated access trails and other trails under DDOT jurisdiction.

Mr. Simon Rennie of DDOT's infrastructure administration attended the meeting to explain the maintenance procedures for bridge sidewalks. Mr. Rennie manages the maintenance contract with VMS, Inc. The 4-year-old contract includes cleaning and maintenance of 75 miles of DC roads and bridges, including all major bridges. It is a performance-based contract, with 170 performance measures. Unfortunately, the condition of the bridge sidewalks is not one of the performance measures.

VMS has informally agreed to clean sidewalks once a month and in response to specific requests. Most of the sidewalks have to be done by hand since they are so narrow. The problem is often exacerbated by street cleaning which pushes debris onto the sidewalks on some bridges.

Julie Eisenhardt asked if the contract included changing bridge fencing and railing. Mr. Rennie said that the contract included fixing fences, but not replacing or changing them.

Chris Craig asked if the contract included mowing grass on and around trails in DDOT right of way. Mr. Rennie said yes.

Tomeka Gibbs asked about lights, particularly on the South Capitol Street bridge and trail. Mr. Rennie said yes, that is included.

Mr. Schreiber said that the Sousa bridge has not been cleaned in months. He's had four flat tires. Mr. Rennie said he would look into this.

Several others at the meeting said they did not think cleaning was happening on a monthly basis. In the end, there is nothing to compel VMS to clean the bridge sidewalks since there is nothing in the contract requiring it. The contract expires in July of 2005.

The BAC talked about ways to fix this problem, like:

1. Amending the existing contract
2. Inserting language into the next contract.
3. Doing a separate contract for bike facility maintenance

Amy suggested that somebody do a policy memo like the one we did for the bike registration issue.

Ellen Jones volunteered to work with Mr. Sebastian on the issue.

### **Bicycle Plan Update**

Mr. Sebastian handed out the August draft of Bicycle Master Plan, which has been on the web site for a few weeks. Mr. Sebastian asked if the BAC could approve the plan.

Some members expressed concern that they have not had enough time to review it. Some suggested that the BAC approve the plan, but that members be allowed to submit comments over the following days. The BAC then voted to approve the plan with this condition.

### **Bike Map**

Members broke into three groups to review the draft bike map. Comments were recorded.